

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09450 01 OF 03 201334Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-14 USIA-15

COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 L-03 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12

NEA-10 PRS-01 PA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 OMB-01

IGA-02 ABF-01 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /142 W

-----011623 201443Z /47

P 201114Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1315

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 MANILA 9450

PASS USDA/FAS AND ERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, WFC, RP

SUBJECT: SEC. BERGLAND ADDRESS TO WFC, MANILA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT DELIVERED BY SEC. BERGLAND AT
THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION OF WFC, JUNE 20, 1500 HOURS:

BEGIN TEXT

IT IS AN HONOR TO REPRESENT MY GOVERNMENT AND THE
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AT THIS SESSION OF THE WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL.

I KNOW ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY JOIN ME IN PAYING
TRIBUTE TO SAYED MAREI, OUR FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL, WITHOUT WHOSE LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION WE
WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BRING OUR HOPES AND PLANS TO THIS
SESSION. HIS EXCELLENT WORK WILL CONTINUE--I KNOW--
UNDER OUR NEW PRESIDENT -- SECRETARY TANCO, WHOSE
DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY
HAS BEEN WIDELY RECOGNIZED.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MANILA 09450 01 OF 03 201334Z

THIS IS THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL. I NEED NOT REMIND YOU OF THE IMPORTANCE
OF THIS MEETING. THE USEFULNESS OF THIS SESSION MAY
WELL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.
I HAVE COME HERE TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT I CAN TO MAKE
THIS COUNCIL A SUCCESS.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED THE MAJOR ISSUES CURRENTLY ON THE NORTH-SOUTH AGENDA AND HAS BEGUN TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN PRIORITIES. WE BELIEVE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO FOCUS DIRECTLY ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS WHO LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY. THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IS ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS AS WELL AS NATION-STATES. OUR OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A BETTER AND MORE SATISFYING LIFE. WE MUST DESIGN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, AND ASSISTANCE WHICH FOCUS ON MEETING THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE POOREST PEOPLE. FOOD IS AMONG THE MOST BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. INDEED, ADEQUATE FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT AND FOR THIS REASON THE UNITED STATES REGARDS THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL AS VITAL.

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO AFFIRM OUR COMMON COMMITMENT TO THE OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. I KNOW PRESIDENT CARTER SHARES MY BELIEF THAT ALL NATIONS--REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES IN CULTURE, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, OR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT--HAVE A COMMON GOAL OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE FOOD FOR THE WORLD'S POPULATION. UNLESS THIS GOAL CAN BE ACHIEVED, AND UNLESS WE, AS PEOPLE AND NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER, CAN ASSURE AN ADEQUATE DIET FOR ALL PEOPLE, OUR OTHER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GOALS BECOME MEANINGLESS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MANILA 09450 01 OF 03 201334Z

WILL NEVER BE ACHIEVED. AS PRESIDENT CARTER SAID LAST MONTH, QUOTE WE KNOW A PEACEFUL WORLD CANNOT LONG EXIST ONE THIRD RICH AND TWO-THIRDS HUNGRY. END QUOTE.

THUS, FOOD MUST BE AN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, NOT INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION MUST BRING FORTH THE BEST OF OUR NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMITMENTS. FOOD MUST NOT BE REGARDED AS A WEAPON OR AS AN ISSUE WHICH DIVIDES US IN EITHER PURPOSE OR ACTION.

PRESIDENT CARTER WISHES THE DELEGATES TO THIS WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SUCCESS IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS, KNOWING THAT ALL OF YOU AND YOUR LEADERS SHARE OUR COMMITMENT TO A COMMON TASK.

THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IS THE HIGHEST POLITICAL BODY DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH ISSUES OF FOOD. IT IS THE FORUM WHERE THESE ISSUES CAN BE DEFINED AND DISCUSSED AND COURSES OF ACTION RECOMMENDED TO

APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES FOR
DECISIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

THIS COUNCIL SHOULD BE A FORUM WHERE ISSUES
OF MALNUTRITION, HUNGER, AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
CAN BE DISCUSSED OPENLY AND FRANKLY WITHOUT REGARD
TO POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OR LEVELS
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES COMES TO THIS CONFERENCE IN THIS SPIRIT.

THIS COUNCIL WAS CREATED DURING A TIME OF
CRISIS. SUPPLIES OF FOOD WERE SCARCE, AND PRICES
WERE HIGH. DURING THE LAST YEAR, GRAIN STOCKS
HAVE INCREASED RAPIDLY AND GRAIN EXPORT PRICES HAVE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 MANILA 09450 01 OF 03 201334Z

FALLEN SHARPLY. BUT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE STILL
ARE UNDERNOURISHED AND, IN THIS SENSE, THE WORLD FOOD
CRISIS STILL IS WITH US. ALL OF THE TOPICS ON OUR
AGENDA RECOGNIZE THIS FACT AND SEEK TO DEAL WITH IT.
ACCORDINGLY, MY INITIAL REMARKS WILL PRESENT MY
GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES ON A RANGE OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE RELATED ISSUES.

THIS MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S VERY POOR LIVE IN
THE RURAL AREAS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THEREFORE,
THE BASIC PROBLEMS OF POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND HUNGER
CANNOT BE SOLVED WITHOUT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURE
OF THESE COUNTRIES. EFFORTS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION
IN POOR COUNTRIES MUST BE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED. ALSO
SERIOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DISTRIBUTION MUST BE MADE
TO ASSURE THAT FOOD ACTUALLY REACHES THE UNDERNOURISHED
PEOPLE.

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PAGE 05 MANILA 09450 01 OF 03 201334Z

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANILA 09450 02 OF 03 201342Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-14 USIA-15

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P 201114Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1316

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 MANILA 9450

PASS USDA/FAS AND ERS

WE WELCOME THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION TOWARD OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. THAT CONFERENCE REAFFIRMED THE NEED FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS BY ALL COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE SATISFACTORY RATES OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT CONTRIBUTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ONE BILLION DOLLAR INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE CONFERENCE ALSO TOOK ACTIONS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE COORDINATED BY THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND WILL LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT IN THE AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL AGRICULTURAL INPUTS. AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED ON OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WHICH NEED NOT BE DEBATED AGAIN IN THIS SESSION. MY GOVERNMENT REGARDS THE RESULTS OF THIS CONFERENCE AS SIGNIFICANT AND HELPFUL IN THE TASK WE ARE CONTINUING IN THIS MEETING.

THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAMS AIMED AT PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MANILA 09450 02 OF 03 201342Z

ACT OF 1974 REQUIRES THAT THE UNITED STATES DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOCUS ON HELPING THE POOR MAJORITY IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES BILATERAL AID PROGRAM AWAITING FINAL ACTION BY THE CONGRESS CALLS FOR MORE THAN 700 MILLION DOLLARS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. ALSO, THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO CONTRIBUTE 800 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR FROM 1978 THROUGH 1980 TO THE WORLD BANK'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THESE FUNDS ARE

DISTRIBUTED ON A CONCESSIONARY BASIS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN THE MOST NEEDY COUNTRIES. FINALLY, THE UNITED STATES HAS PLEDGED 200 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

INCREASED PRODUCTION IS CENTRAL TO LONG-TERM WORLD FOOD SECURITY. BUT FOOD SECURITY ALSO REQUIRES ASSURANCE THAT ADEQUATE SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT OF SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION CAUSED BY WEATHER OR OTHER ADVERSE EVENTS. SUPPLIES SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO PREVENT EXTREME SWINGS IN PRICES THAT CREATE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP FOR THE POOR IN ALL NATIONS AND OFR ALMOST ALL IN POOR NATIONS.

IN ORDER TO IMPROVE WORLD FOOD SECURITY, THE UNITED STATES ALREADY HAS TAKEN ACTION TO ESTABLISH A DOMESTIC FOODGRAIN RESERVE. THIS RESERVE WILL BE ACCUMULATED DURING THIS PERIOD OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AND LOW PRICES FOR RETURN TO THE MARKET DURING PERIODS OF SHORT SUPPLIES AND HIGH PRICES. WE COMMEND THE SIMILAR ACTIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHERS.

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PAGE 03 MANILA 09450 02 OF 03 201342Z

BUT FOOD SECURITY IS NOT THE SOLE OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OR A FEW NATIONS. THE WORLD SHOULD NOT WANT ITS FOOD SECURITY TO REST IN THE HANDS OF A FEW NATIONS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD FOOD SECURITY MUST BE SHARED WIDELY. THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES HOPES THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL SOON CAN LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A COORDINATED SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY-HELD RESERVE STOCKS. WE BELIEVE A WORLD FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM SHOULD INCLUDE THESE FEATURES. FIRST, A RESERVE STOCK MECHANISM MUST BE DESIGNED TO REDUCE WIDE FLUCTUATIONS AROUND THE LONG-RUN TREND IN MARKET PRICES. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER PRICE INDICATORS TO TRIGGER RESERVE ACTIONS. SECOND, THE COST OF RESERVE STOCKS MUST BE SHARED AMONG BOTH EXPORTING AND IMPORTING NATIONS. SPECIAL PROVISIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO ASSIST POOR NATIONS IN MEETING THEIR SHARE. AND, THIRD, WE MUST PREVENT ADJUSTMENTS IN CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN TIMES OF EXTREME SURPLUS AND SCARCITY.

WE RECOGNIZE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SCHEME FOR ASSURING WORLD FOOD SECURITY. BUT WE MUST FIND MEANS TO OVERCOME THESE

DIFFICULTIES. THE WORLD NEED NOT SUFFER ONCE AGAIN THE
HARDSHIPS OF THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS OF 1972-74.
WE MUST FIND THE WILL AND THE WISDOM TO CREATE AN
INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY IN WHICH
THE BURDENS OF MAINTAINING THE SYSTEM ARE EQUITABLY
SHARED. WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT EASING
OF SUPPLIES TO INSURE THAT WE DO NOT MISS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09450 03 OF 03 201345Z
ACTION EB-07

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-----011723 201442Z /47

P 201114Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1317

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 MANILA 9450

PASS USDA/FAS AND ERS

IN ADDITION TO REDUCING WIDE FLUCTUATIONS IN
COMMERCIAL PRICES AND ASSURING THAT GRAIN IS
ALWAYS AVAILABLE IN COMMERCIAL MARKETS, THE
UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT FOOD AID MUST PLAY
AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING MANY NATIONS TO MEET
THEIR BASIC FOOD REQUIREMENTS.

THE UNITED STATES REGARDS FOOD AID AS ONE OF
ITS MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT.
FOOD AID PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO
MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
NOT THE SURPLUS DISPOSAL NEEDS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
THE UNITED STATES NOW IS SEEKING TO IMPROVE ITS OWN
FOOD-AID PROGRAMS IN SEVERAL WAYS. WE WANT TO MAIN-
TAIN FOOD-AID LEVELS EVEN IN YEARS OF TIGHT SUPPLY.
FOODGRAIN RESERVES ARE ONE MEANS TO DO SO. WE
WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN OUR TOTAL LEVEL
OF FOOD AID AT A FAIR SHARE OF THE WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS. WE WANT TO

MAKE GREATER USE OF FOOD AID AS A DEVELOPMENTAL
TOOL THROUGH LONGER-TERM SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND BY USING FUNDS GENERATED FROM
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PAGE 02 MANILA 09450 03 OF 03 201345Z

SALES UNDER CONCESSIONARY FOOD AID PROGRAMS FOR AGREED
UPON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. WE ALSO ARE REVIEWING
WAYS IN WHICH FOOD AID CAN MAKE A MAXIMUM CONTRI-
BUTION TO DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE POOREST
NATIONS. I SHOULD ADD THAT THE UNITED STATES
RECENTLY AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO 125,000 TONS
TO THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE AS
PART OF OUR COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS.

I MENTION THESE INITIATIVES TO YOU NOW TO DEMONS-
TRAGE THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION TO ELIMINATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.
WE INVITE ALL NATIONS TO JOIN WITH US TO MOVE
SWIFTLY TOWARD THAT GOAL. I MUST ADD THAT EXTERNAL
ASSISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CAN BE
EFFECTIVE ONLY IN COMBINATION WITH COMMITMENT AND
INVESTMENTS BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES.

THIS MEETING OF MINISTERS IS A UNIQUE OPPOR-
TUNITY WHICH WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISUSE. WE MUST
FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE HUNGRY OF THIS WORLD.
WE MUST INSTILL A SENSE OF RENEWED DEDICATION AND
COMMON COMMITMENT SO THAT NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL STRENGTHEN THEIR
EFFORTS TO SOLVE THIS MOST FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM
OF MANKIND. WE MUST SET FORTH THE DIRECTORS
FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE HUNGER FROM
OUR WORLD.

IN SUMMARY, I BELIEVE WE REPRESENTATIVES
OF GOVERNMENTS MUST RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO THE HIGH
GOALS SET FORTH BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OF 1974.
WE MUST ASSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND
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PAGE 03 MANILA 09450 03 OF 03 201345Z

THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SERVE THEM DIRECT THEIR
BEST EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS.

I TRUST THAT, DURING THIS SESSION, THE COUNCIL
WILL DEDICATE ITSELF TO THIS PURPOSE. END OF TEXT.
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